

### Solomon Japs Outnumbered

**Battle for Oivi Near Decisive Stage; Enemy Battered**

(Continued from Page 1)

tions in day-to-day American life on the island yet to come from an official source.

Brightened by many humorous touches, his story was none-the-less one of grand fortitude on the part of soldiers and marines, most of whom have known hardly a moment of unworried rest since the Solomons campaign began three months ago.

Even under such circumstances, Holcomb reported, the marines have developed their own humorous slant. To them the japs who send over a flight of seaplanes to bomb their positions is "Louis the Louse." The frequent lone submarine that shells them by night is "Oscar the Sub," enemy artillery bombarding them from the jungle to the southwest is "Pistol Pete" to the ground troops and "Millimeter Pete" to the airman, and the cruiser-destroyer groups which have landed about 900 men regularly every other night constitute the "Tokio Express."

The marine general, who arrived on Guadalcanal October 21 to get first hand information on training and equipment needs and left on the 23rd, described the "Tokio Express" as consisting usually of a cruiser which carried about 300 troops and four destroyers carrying 150 each. He said that "Our troops have accounted for two of these groups."

General MacArthur's Headquarters, Australia, Wednesday, Nov. 11—(AP)—The battle for Oivi, 55 miles from the northwestern New Guinea coast, between Jap and allied ground forces now is approaching the decisive stage, the high command announced Wednesday.

Heavy fighting is in progress at Oivi where the Japs elected to make a stand after having retreated since September 29 from the point of their farthest advance across the Owen Stanley

### Oran Captured by US Force; Tunis 'Go Ahead' Said Given

(Continued from Page 1)

seacoast from Algiers to Gibraltar.

Leaning back in his chair after the tense hours, Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower closed his eyes and said "It was no child's play at Oran and I am mighty proud of our boys who have not had any sleep since Friday night."

Then leaning forward with a serious expression on his face, he added, "but I don't want to make this appear as a great military victory. The French are our friends and we want to keep them as our friends. We only fought because we had to."

At Algiers, where Vichy's defense chief Adm. Jean Darlan is now a guest of an American general, the axis has been attacking allied naval forces, but the damage is described by headquarters as light.

Carrier-based planes and RAF fighter squadrons stationed on captured airdromes have exacted a heavy toll of these axis raiders, it was said.

In the Algiers area American troops are reported to have been welcomed by the population of the famous city which sometimes is called "Africa's Paris."

There is official silence here on the status of Darlan.

Mal. Gen. George S. Patton's

mountains upon Port Moresby. Since November 3, the allied forces have been close to Oivi and, encountering stiff resistance on a scale they had not faced since the Japs began backtracking, called upon their planes and tried encircling and infiltration tactics to crack the Jap defenses.

While the ground attack moved toward a climax, heavy aerial blows were dealt between Oivi and the Jap's northeastern New Guinea coastal base on Buna near which American troops, aerially transported, already are fighting.

Ammunition dumps were destroyed and heavy anti-aircraft guns were blown from their emplacements by planes which bombed and strafed the Sopot area between Buna and Oivi.

### Doolittle Men Control Skies

**US Pilots Bomb and Strafe French in North Africa**

(Continued from Page 1)

pilots who immediately forgot their lack of sleep and kept on hammering at the opposing armored columns which were pushing northward from the direction of Sidi Bel Abbas, which is headquarters in this region for the French Foreign legion.

The American pilots also put out of action a number of artillery batteries which had been shelling this airdrome.

Planes dropped leaflets from Gen. Henri Honore Giraud (the French general who has joined the allied forces and who will be in charge of civil and military direction of the country) urging the French to cease fighting.

"Save your bullets for the Boche," they read.

Mal. D. B. Avery, 25, of Salt Lake City, Monday afternoon spotted an armored column moving north from Sidi Bel Abbas toward this airdrome and went down close to investigate.

A couple of lucky shots struck his gas tank and he was forced to make a crash landing. He landed unharmed 100 yards from a hostile column but he escaped and was picked up by one of our motor columns.

Lt. Col. F. M. Dean, of St. Petersburg, Fla., destroyed five tanks in one enemy column which was pushing northward from Sidi Bel Abbas.

As I write this dispatch at 8:40 a.m., Tuesday our Spitfires are taking off to scout the area for the remaining armored units and also to attack with their machine guns French ground batteries and ground forces near a second airdrome.

This second airdrome also is held by our troops but is under attack by French artillery and armored units. The rolling fire of heavy guns is plainly audible from hills some distance away.

I rode to General Doolittle's headquarters with an armored column. We had been warned to expect trouble en route. At one place along the war French artillery unsuccessfully shelled the road we were traveling.

We halted at several villages where Maj. Don Coster, a Montreal advertising executive, who lists his home towns as New York City, and who was an ambulance driver in France before the Germans captured Paris, talked in French with a number of civilians. All the civilians said they were delighted "that you Americans have arrived," and asked us not to judge them by the resistance being made by others.

All day long Monday three American squadrons kept up continual ground strafing attacks.

The first French planes to be shot down were credited to Lt. Carl W. Payne, 21, of Columbus, Ohio; Lt. Charles Kenworthy, 23, of Shenandoah, Ia., and Maj. Harrison R. Thyng, 24, of Barnstead, N.H.

Within a few hours after the ground troops had seized their positions our Spitfires landed and immediately began to use the field as a base for military operations.

### On the HOME FRONT

By ISABEL CHILDS

On the eve of Armistice day, he was recalling experiences of that other war—and relaxing. For this was his night off from work at the shipyards, but whatever he had taken to help him relax left no gleam in his eyes as he leaned across our table in a downtown restaurant. No one offered him a seat, but there were those in our party who recalled with the man of the iron grey hair events of 25 years ago and the welcome was sincere.

Somewhere between that first Armistice day and this a different kind of warfare had entered the life of our friend, and he was frank in telling us his story.

Marriage, three children, success in business, bankruptcy a full 15 years ago and with it ill feelings and a broken home.

Today, he speaks, or at least last night he did, with pride of the sons and daughter he left.

The yet-handsome face, brown and lined, the tired eyes beneath the shock of hair now revealed and again hidden as the rakish hair was removed, replaced and tipped back, took on a new expression as he spoke of that trio. The oldest is fighting—he believes.

But there could be no surety in what he believes, for he has not heard from them in 15 years.

Embittered in his thoughts of the life he lost, although apparently glad to be doing the work he accomplishes today, he has never taken a pencil to write these simple words: "Dear sons and daughter, your dad would like to know how you are, what you are doing and that you still think of him as he does of you."

They have not written to him, why should he address a line to them?

So, he fights Mr. Hitler, he declares, as he fits ships, but I cannot help feeling that the lad "now fighting, or at least old enough to" could meet with better spirit the danger on the battlefield had he this one extra bit of "news from home."

### Allied Fleet 'Gathering' At Gibraltar

(Continued from Page 1)

and a transport, and that 14 other vessels had been hit by bombs.

Rome said there had been "successful attacks" by submarines on British and American warships in Mediterranean waters.

The Italian surface fleet, a considerable force possibly including as many as seven battleships, was still in hiding. But it seemed certain that Hitler, in his reported conference with Pierre Laval and Mussolini at Rome, would have some assignment for the Italian war vessels.

The British admiralty reported the torpedoing of an Italian cruiser off the north coast of Sicily, indicating that the British were pressing the sea war right to the shores of Italy.

German submarines were expected to step up their activity. But from the allied side came a bit of encouraging news regarding the war against submarines. A. V. Alexander, first lord of the admiralty, reported in the house of commons that to date 57 German under sea vessels are known to have been sunk, damaged or captured.

Under the armistice Germany asked nothing which might be incompatible with the honor of the French army.

Precautions, however, had to be taken—in order to prevent the fight from being started again in the interests of the

### Bombers Hit German Area

**British Race Rommel Into Libya; Russia Fighting Reduced**

(Continued from Page 1)

Sidi Barrani and the border outpost of Salum, and was certain to be quickly liquidated.

The allied air force operating from advance fields has been giving the enemy no peace as he flees along the coast road.

Axis fortified areas and positions deep in Libya were being subjected to relentless bombings.

Far behind in the Egyptian desert one of the starkest tragedies of the conflict was unfolding as British searching parties rounded up the thousands of hapless Italians who were abandoned without sufficient food and water by their German allies when Lt. Gen. B. L. Montgomery's troops first smashed through at El Alamein.

MOSCOW, Wednesday, Nov. 11—(AP)—Military operations along the Russian front dwindled almost to skirmish level Wednesday and foreign observers speculated that the Germans might be regrouping for a new major blow at the red lines now holding firmly from the Baltic to the Black sea.

The heaviest engagement Tuesday was fought along the Black sea coast northeast of Tuzupe but there the invaders struck with relatively light forces and were promptly hurled back, the Russians said.

In Stalingrad there was sharp fighting but in comparison with the masses of troops thrown against the Volga stronghold a few weeks ago Wednesday's clashes involved little more than heavy patrols.

Hitler Says Plan Known For Landing

(Continued from Page 1)

"German occupation troops have been given orders for joint action."

"Given on November 11, 1942. "Signed Adolf Hitler."

The letter was read by a spokesman of the German army.

The announcement began: "Frenchmen, officers and men of the French army:

"On September 3, 1939, the British government without cause or reason declared war upon Germany."

"Those responsible for this war unfortunately succeeded at that time in instigating the French government to join the declaration of war."

"For Germany this constituted an unbearable provocation. The German government had never made any claims on her which might have caused her offense."

"The German people who then had to face this aggression while sacrificing the blood of its sons never felt any hatred for France."

"Nevertheless, this war started in this fashion and involved a great many families of the two countries in grief and sorrow."

"After the crumbling of the Anglo-French front which, after the flight of the British to Dunkerque, developed into a catastrophe, France asked Germany for an armistice."

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### Armistice Parade Set

(Continued from Page 1)

1:30 to 6 o'clock, open house by both groups with general entertainment; the VFW public initiation of new members at their hall at 8:30 and the VFW victory dance following at 9 o'clock. Of the two dances, that of the Legion at the armory is open to the general public.

British warmongers by means of paid agents.

"Germany had no intention whatsoever of humiliating France or of infringing on the integrity of the French empire."

"She hoped by a subsequent reasonable peace to achieve an atmosphere of mutual understanding in Europe."

"Since that time Great Britain and now also the United States have sought to set foot again on French soil in order to continue the war, as suits their interests, on French territory."

"After several attempts had come to a lamentable end, the Anglo-American attack was launched against the colonies of North and West Africa."

"Having regard to the weakness of the French forces in those parts," it went on, "the enemy would find it an easier ground for operations than in the west where the country is protected by Germany."

"The German government has known for 24 hours that plans of these operations provide that the next attack will be made against Corsica in order to occupy that island and against the south coast of France."

"In these circumstances I felt compelled to order the German army immediately to

march through the unoccupied zone—and this is now being done—and to march to the point aimed at by the Anglo-American landing troops."

"The German army does not come as an enemy of the French people nor of its soldiers nor does it intend to govern these territories."

"It has a single aim—to repel together with its allies any landing attempt by the Anglo-American forces."

"Marshal Petain and his government are entirely free and are in the position to fulfill their duty as in the past."